

Center News



Volume 5 Issue 1

A Newsletter for Federal Child Care Centers

Winter 2002

The GSA nation-wide network of child care coordinators

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GSA's 13th Annual Child Care Conference "Coming of Age in The Cradle of Liberty" Philadelphia, PA July 9-11, 2002



Plan to join us for the 13th Annual Child Care Conference sponsored by the U.S. General Services Administration, Public Buildings Service on July 9-11 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Experts in the field of early care and education, and Government professionals will address key issues and provide training that is directly related to the work of child care center staff, administrators, boards of directors, Federal agency representatives and facility and security managers.

In celebrating our 13th conference we will feature the staff and children that have been associated with our program since the early years. Check your photo albums, and help your Regional Child Care Coordinator identify children and staff from the early years who are still associated with the center as an employee or as a volunteer. We will also be highlighting major improvements that have been made to

the facilities across the country.

The conference brochure will be mailed on April 19, 2002. Check out our web site at www.gsa.gov/childcare/ for additional information. If you did not receive a save the date card and wish to receive the conference registration information call 202.501.3965 to be added to our mailing list.

The conference will begin on Tuesday morning, 12:00 PM, July 9th and close at 2:00 PM on Thursday, July 11. It will be held at the Philadelphia Marriott, 1201 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA. To make reservations call 800-228-9290 or 800-320-5744 and ask for the "13th Annual GSA Child Care Conference" before the deadline of June 16, 2002. The conference rate is \$118.00 for single or double occupancy plus 14% tax.

RECYCLING PAYS

On November 29, 2001, the Social Security Administration (SSA) donated a check in the amount of \$59,500.00 to the Child Care Center, located in the Richard Bolling Federal Building, Kansas City, MO. The donated funds will be used to assist SSA families with child care tuition. The money was accumulated through the recycling sales program, which allows participating agencies to give funds back to support their child care centers.



pictured above:

*Jerry Adams, Child Care Board President;
Inell Gilmore, SSA Board Representative; and
Michael Grochowski, Regional Commissioner, SSA.*



Kevin's Corner

The Office of Child Care, recently acquired additional space for a resource center. While this is an existing 14' x18' office, it needed to be refurbished to suit our needs. Of course one of the first lessons of sustainable design is to keep it simple, recycle as best you can the stuff you already have on hand, and carefully select new materials which are as "green" or environmentally beneficial as possible. Here are a few of the things we used.

CORK TILE FLOORING

Cork is the ultimate ecological product, ultra resistant to scuff, scratches, easy to maintain. Durable, antiallergenic, and unaffected by humidity. Cork is the bark from the Portuguese cork tree; the bark is peeled from the trees every 914 years without harming the tree which has a life span of 500-900 years.

Durability

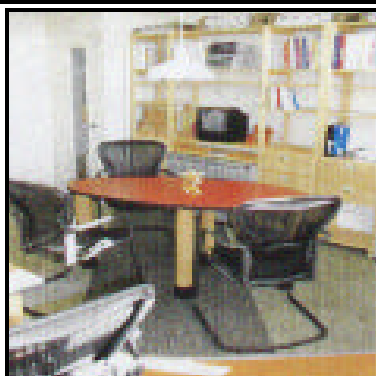
The cork floor of the First Congregational Church in Chicago was installed in 1890. Frank Lloyd Wright installed cork floors and walls in Falling Water in 1937. The Mayo Clinic has 300,000 square feet of flooring portions in service since 1912, the remaining portions since 1940.

Maintenance

The finished floor is deaned with water. No wax or oils should be used. The tile may be sealed with a waterbase polyurethane sealer.

Cost

Floor tile ranges in price from \$16 to \$36 per square meter.



GSA Office of Child Care is Reorganized

The current Office of Child Care Policy, Child Care Operations Center of Expertise and Child Care Coordinators in our eleven geographic regions will be realigned to work more closely together in the new **Office of Child Care**.

In making the announcement GSA Administrator Perry reiterated GSA's strong commitment to strengthening and further improving the child care program in GSA facilities. "We recognize the importance of ensuring that Federal workers have access to high-quality, affordable child care services," he said. "This reorganization will enable us to improve the child care services we provide to agencies, parents, licensed service providers and, most importantly, the children". Child care centers and boards will continue to work with their Regional Child Care Coordinators.

Kevin's Corner (continued from column 1)

Manufacturer

There are many manufacturers and distributors of cork finishes. The GSA child care office used Wicanders Natural Cork (sanded) #NC103 www.wicanders.com

LINOLEUM

Linoleum was invented in 1863 in England. It is made of linseed oil pine rosin, wood flour, and jute. It is made of rapidly renewable agriculture products and is completely biodegradable. It decomposes into earth. There are no Volatile Organic Compounds. It is anti-static, is produced in unlimited vibrant colors, can be heat welded, and can be cut to produce exciting graphics. Linoleum gives off a benign and nostalgic odor of fatty acids.

Durability

The Rockettes (in high heels) have been dancing on the linoleum of the Radio City Music Hall Stage for over 40 years.

Maintenance

Dry mopping is the most effective method

Cost

Price installed begins at around \$37 per square meter.

Product

Currently, Forbo Industries is the only manufacturer of linoleum in the US, we have covered one wall with decorative samples of marmoleum.

www.forbo-industries.com

Linoleum Adhesive Nonflammable, nontoxic mildew resistant antimicrobial waterbase, L910By Forbco.

OFFICE FURNITURE

The office furniture was selected for its' simplicity of installation, award winning design and environmentally beneficial materials and production methods. Work surfaces are Greenboard - made of agricultural waste products (wheat, rice, or flax), and finished in a wide variety of natural dyes. Partitions are made from compressed post consumer newsprint, legs and shelf supports of post consumer recycled cardboard. Legs, bases, desk and shelf edges are protected with trim made from recycled tires. The furniture is simple, comfortable and truly easy to reconfigure requiring no special tools, contractor service, or complex kit of parts. www.studioeg.com

TO: Members of the Early Childhood Network
FROM: Ellen Galinsky and Lois Backon
RE: Salute to Educators
DATE: January 16, 2002



Families and Work Institute



Families and Work Institute is pleased to announce the launch of *Salute to Educators*, an initiative to honor outstanding educators nationwide who have helped children cope with and respond to the events of September 11th and its aftermath; and who have promoted positive change by teaching lessons of peace, diversity, understanding, and contributing. We define educators as teachers, administrators, clergy, youth leaders, child care providers, coaches, and others who work with children from birth through 18 years of age.

Salute to Educators is collecting stories of educator and youth responses to September 11th, its aftermath, and the rebuilding efforts. A selection of these will be published in the *Salute to Educators Guide*—a tool for educators to use as they confront challenges—and will be highlighted in a television special. Stories will also be compiled on our Web site at www.familiesandwork.org to extend the reach of positive education programs. *Salute to Educators* will also award small monetary *Stepping Into the Future* seed grants to educators for projects that promote appreciation of diversity and teach valuable lessons about coping, giving and enhancing community. **Grant proposals will be accepted through July 1st, 2002. Award notifications will be made by September 15th, 2002.**

We all know the importance of education in the early years and it is very important to us that we get a variety of responses from educators of children of all ages. **Here is how you and your organization can contribute to this new initiative:**

- ◆ **Spread the word.** Please share information on *Salute to Educators* through your network, with colleagues, neighbors, and friends. Include it in your newsletter, email blast, or post it on your Web site. Click here for a summary of the initiative: <http://salute.familiesandwork.org/AboutSalute.asp> With your help, we can reach educators and youth who have made a difference!
- ◆ **Submit a story.** Tell us about projects or lessons that have been effective in helping children cope with and respond to the September 11th tragedy and its aftermath. Forms for submitting stories are available at www.familiesandwork.org. Educators, children, parents, and others may all submit stories.
- ◆ **Help an educator apply for a seed grant.** If you have a vision for helping children cope with and learn from September 11th and its aftermath, or know an educator who does, submit a proposal for a *Stepping Into the Future* seed grant. Forms for applying for seed grants are available at www.familiesandwork.org.
- ◆ **Visit our Web site, www.familiesandwork.org.** Browse through educators' stories; find information about the *Salute to Educators* initiative, as well as guidelines for submitting stories and submitting proposals for *Stepping Into the Future* seed grants; and provide information so we can link to your organization's Web site.

We hope that you will share information on Families and Work Institute's exciting new *Salute to Educators* initiative with others. Please email SaluteToEducators@familiesandwork.org or call 212-465-2044 with your questions, comments, or requests for additional information.



In Memoriam.....Lynn Woodall

The GSA child care community notes with sorrow the untimely death of Lynn Woodall in January this year. Lynn was the Director for the Social Security Child Care Center in Woodlawn, MD, for 12 years. Lynn was a dedicated and caring professional, and a friend to the entire child care community. She will be sorely missed. Lynn 47, is survived by her husband of 25 years, Jim, and daughters Emily, Beth and Brandy. Memorials may be offered to the Social Security Child Care Center c/o Lynn Woodall Children's Fund, Box 26430 #51 Baltimore, MD 21207.

Of the GSA centers eligible for NAEYC Accreditation, 84% are now accredited.

Congratulations to the following center on their recent re-accreditation:

Eagles Loft, Ames, Iowa, managed by Bright Horizons Family Solutions

Congratulations to the following center on their recent accreditation:

Clinton Street Child Care Center, Syracuse, NY managed by Knowledge Learning Corp.



Two kindergarten students at Club Fed, work on writing projects as part of their "good deeds" fundraiser.

Club Fed, Albany, New York Supports America's Fund for Afghan Children

Over the past month, the children of the Club Fed Child Care Center in Albany, NY have been raising money to support America's fund for the Afghan Children. The infants through kindergarten classrooms have been doing "good deeds" at home to raise \$1.

As the children did their "good deed" at home, the parents documented it and sent it back to school. The teachers then did an art project with the children where they illustrated their good deed or another they would like to do. Announcements were also delivered around the Federal building describing the project and asking for sponsors to help raise at least \$1 for every child. Through everyone's effort the center successfully raised \$107.50, which they mailed to the White House to be included in the relief fund. "Children helping children is very empowering" said Patricia Lydon, the center director.

GSA Child Care Operations Center of Expertise

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Special Thanks to:
Cecilia Tracz for
her assistance with
the graphics and
the
formatting of this
newsletter.



Contributions and
Comments on **Center**
News are welcome
and encouraged.

NEW CENTER OPENS IN SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

The Rainforest Kids Child Development Center, opened for children on January 7th. The center is in a free standing building, and will serve 74 full time children plus 30 school agers. The program is managed by ICPE, inc and offers a full bi-lingual program.

